	State	Centres
4.	Maharashtra	Pune, Navi Mumbai
5.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
6.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
8.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
9.	Punjab	Mohali
10.	Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram
11.	Assam	Guwahati

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Software Technology Parks of India, an autonomous society under the Ministry of Information Technology, has signed and MoU to provide High Speed Data Communication facility in Indore with nodes at Gwalior and Bhopal. This facility is being created for the Software exporting units.

Double Texation for Indian Software Companies

1577. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Indian Software Companies suffer double taxation as they pay taxes at this end as well as adhere to the taxation norms of the United States" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 22nd February, 2000; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sign the totalisation agreement with the US at the earliest, so that Indian Companies are not required to pay the tax twice?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and appropriate steps have been initiated to address to issue.

Recommendations of Task Force on IT

1578. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of the First Report of the Task Force on the Information Technology;

(b) how many of these recommendations have been actually implemented;

(c) the reasons for not implementing some of the major recommendations; if any;

(d) whether Government have received the recommendations made in the Second Report relating to the hardware sector; and

(e) if so, what steps are contemplated to implement them so as to boost up the hardware sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The major recommendations of the Task Force relate to simplified policies and procedures in telecommunication sector, enactment of Cyber Laws to promote e-commerce and to provide security to electronic transaction, simplifications in labour laws for IT sector, fiscal incentives, promotion of IT in schools and rural areas, computerization in Government and to increase computer literacy at grass root levels.

(b) 44 out of 108 recommendations have already been implemented.

(c) 30 recommendations are on-going and are to be implemented in phases. 3 recommendations have been found non-implementable and 31 are yet to be implemented. Many of these recommendations yet to be implemented relate to Department of Telecommunications, Department of Education, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance and State Governments. Ministry of Information Technology being the nodal Ministry for promotion of IT in the country is pursuing with the concerned Ministries/ Departments for implementation of these recommendations. Ministry of Information Technology has set up five groups to go into the recommendations and prepare a blue print for the implementation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Following steps have been taken in this regard:

(1) Government in the recent budget has reduced the basic customs duty on the following select items:

	Previous Rate(%)	Current Rate(%)
Computers	20	15
Motherboard	20	15
Floppy diskettes	20	15
Specified capital Goods for manufacture of Semiconductor	15	5
Microprocessor	5	0
Memory storage	5	0
CD ROMs	5	0
Integrated circuits and micro assemblies	5	0
Data graphic display Tubes for colour Monitor	5	0

(2) Government has set up National Venture Fund for Software and IT Industry (NFSIT) with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores, out of which Ministry of Information Technology shall contribute Rs. 30 crores.

(3) Provision for issue of sweat equity by companies has been introduced in the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.

Outcome of National Advisory Committee on IT Meeting

1579. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Information Technology was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the significant outcome of the meeting/decisions taken thereon; and

(c) whether Government have decided to bring forward the information technology Bill during this Session of Parliament also to look into the implementation of three reports of the Task Force submitted to Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of